

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----116981 121024Z /14
O 120947Z AUG 77
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 SECTO 08155

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR THE PRESIDENT AND DR.
BREZINSKI ONLY

DEPARTMENT FOR DEP. SEC'Y AND TARNOFF ONLY

1. TO COMPLEMENT THE FULLER REPORT I SENT YOU ON MY
TALKS IN ISRAEL, I WANT TO PASS ALONG SEVERAL ADDI-
TIONAL POINTS FROM A PRIVATE MEETING I HAD WITH BEGIN
AND DAYAN.

2. WE REVIEWED THE "MISUNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN US
OVER THE LEGALIZATION OF THREE EXISTING ISRAELI
SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK. BEGIN STRESSED THAT HE

HONESTLY HAD NO IDEA THAT THIS KIND OF "ROUTINE ACTION"
WOULD HAVE BEEN VIEWED SO ADVERSELY BY THE US. WE
REAFFIRMED THAT IN FUTURE CASES WE WOULD TRY TO CONSULT
THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, ALTHOUGH I POINTED OUT
THAT WE HAD IN THIS CASE WAITED FOR AMBASSADOR DINITZ
TO CONFIRM THE FACTS BEFORE MAKING ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT.

3. ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SETTLEMENT ISSUE, BEGIN
SAID THAT WHAT HE HAS IN MIND IS TO LIMIT SETTLEMENT
ACTIVITIES DURING THE "NEXT FEW MONTHS" TO ABOUT 6 OR
8 LOCATIONS, ALL ON LAND INCLUDED WITHIN EXISTING

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MILITARY BASE AREAS ON GOVERNMENT-OWNED LAND UNDER
MILITARY CONTROL. ABOUT 40 - 50 CIVILIAN FAMILIES
WOULD BE PERMITTED TO SETTLE IN SUCH AREAS. NO ACQUI-
SITION OF NEW LAND WOULD BE INVOLVED, AND NO ARABS
WOULD BE DISPLACED. (DAYAN LATER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT
SOME OF THE SETTLEMENTS WOULD BE CLOSE TO THE CENTER
OF THE WEST BANK, BUT HE INSISTED THAT NONE WOULD BE

CLOSE TO HEAVILY POPULATED AREAS.)

4. I REPEATED THAT WE CONTINUED TO HOLD A DIFFERENT VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL LAW ON THIS ACTION AND PRESSED HIM AGAIN ON WHY IT IS NECESSARY TO ENGAGE IN AN ACTION THAT HAS SERIOUS RAMIFICATIONS FOR THE PEACE PROCESS. DAYAN ANSWERED THAT NO ISRAELI SETTLEMENT WILL BE AN OBSTACLE TO ANY PEACE AGREEMENT BECAUSE THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WILL MOVE ANY SETTLEMENT WHICH IS LEFT OUTSIDE A BORDER ESTABLISHED IN A PEACE SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, HE THEN SAID THAT THERE HAD NEVER BEEN AN ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WHICH DID NOT AUTHORIZE NEW SETTLEMENTS AND THAT THE ONGOING SETTLEMENT OF THE LAND WILL REMAIN A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE FOR THE JEWISH STATE. I POINTED OUT THAT EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SUGGESTING PUTTING CIVILIANS INTO ALREADY EXISTING MILITARY BASES, THIS TOO WOULD VIOLATE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL PRINCIPLES. IT IS THE FACT OF MOVING (BEGIN UNDERSCORE) CIVILIANS (END UNDERSCORE) OF ONE COUNTRY INTO OCCUPIED TERRITORY THAT CONSTITUTES THE LEGAL VIOLATION.

5. IN CONCLUDING THIS PART OF THE DISCUSSION, DAYAN SEEMED TO MISJUDGE ARAB REACTION. IT IS INCREASINGLY APPARENT THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE TRYING TO CONVINCE THEMSELVES AND TO BASE THEIR LEGAL CASE ON THE PROPOSITION.

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TION THAT THE ARABS WILL NOT REACT TO SETTLEMENTS WHICH DO NOT RESULT IN DISPLACEMENT OF ARAB POPULATION.

6. TURNING TO SOUTH LEBANON, I PROMISED BEGIN THAT I WOULD RAISE WITH ASSAD THE IMPORTANCE OF SYRIAN ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORTING PLO WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SOUTHERN BORDER AREA. I THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT ANY ISRAELI MILITARY INCURSION INTO SOUTH LEBANON WOULD HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION THAT WOULD BE VERY SEVERE AND DAMAGING. BEGIN SAID HE WANTED TO AVOID ANY SURPRISES AND REPEATED THAT "IF WE DO ANYTHING MILITARY WE WON'T STAY IN LEBANON AT ALL."

7. IN DISCUSSING THE PROSPECTS FOR INTRODUCTION OF LEBANESE FORCES INTO SOUTH LEBANON, BEGIN SAID THAT

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ISRAEL WOULD NOT OBJECT TO A UN FORCE PROVIDED THE PLO IS REMOVED FROM THE BORDER AREA. DAYAN OFFERED THE OPINION THAT A BUFFER AREA WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE CREATED EXTENDING FROM THE BORDER TO THE LITTANI RIVER, AN AREA ABOUT 20 KILOMETERS WIDE. DAYAN SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD NOT DO ANYTHING IN THIS AREA UNTIL I HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH YOU AND COMMENTED FURTHER TO BEGIN. I WILL TALK WITH YOU ON SUNDAY ABOUT A MESSAGE WHICH WE COULD SEND EARLY NEXT WEEK.

9. THE FINAL SUBJECT DISCUSSED DURING THIS SMALLER MEETING WAS ETHIOPIA. BEGIN SAID AGAIN THAT ISRAEL WOULD LIKE TO HELP ETHIOPIA IN FULL CONSULTATION WITH THE US. I EXPLAINED TO HIM AGAIN THAT WE WERE NOT PREPARED TO RENEW OUR ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP. I TOLD HIM FRANKLY HOW WE VIEWED THE ACTIONS OF THE ETHIOPIANS IN EXPELLING OUR PERSONNEL ON TWO DAYS' NOTICE AFTER WE HAD MADE A MAJOR EFFORT TO CONTINUE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. I LEFT NO DOUBT THAT WE WOULD NOT CHANGE OUR ATTITUDE ON MILITARY SUPPLY QUESTION.

10. LATER IN THE DAY, I DREW BEGIN ASIDE AND GOT A SPECIFIC COMMITMENT THAT HE WOULD TAKE NO ACTION WITH
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RESPECT TO LEBANON UNTIL HE HEARD FROM YOU. IN THE SAME CONVERSATION, I COVERED OTHER MATTERS I WILL DISCUSS WITH YOU ON SUNDAY. VANCE

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